

## Message Text

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16

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 DPW-01 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 PM-03 PA-01 PRS-01

USIA-04 IO-03 EB-03 AGR-03 RSR-01 AID-10 /079 W

----- 125348

R 190435Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4805

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 13019

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 : GDS

TAGS: PINSN PINT, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: MR 2 SIT REP, JULY 18

THE FOLLOWING SENT SAIGON FROM AMCONSUL NHA TRANG 18 JUL 73  
REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L NHA TRANG 0705

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR 2 SIT REP, JULY 18

1. SECURITY SITUATION: MILITARY ACTIVITY SLACKENED THROUGHOUT  
REGION DURING THE PAST 48 HOURS, AND REMAINED CONCENTRATED IN  
KONTUM AND BINH DINH PROVINCES. THERE WERE SEVENTEEN INCIDENTS  
REPORTED, VERSUS THIRTY IN EACH OF THE PREVIOUS TWO REPORTING  
PERIODS. OFFENSIVE ACTION WAS LARGELY ENEMY-INITIATED AND  
CONSISTED OF SIX ATTACKS BY FIRE IN KONTUM, ONE IN PLEIKU, AND  
A GROUND ATTACK ON A PHU MY (BINH DINH) RANGER POST. A MECHANICAL  
AMBUSH ON THE PERIMETER OF A RANGER POSITION IN KONTUM KILLED  
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THREE OF THE ENEMY. THERE WAS ALSO A SKIRMISH IN DIEN KHANH

DISTRICT, KHANH HOA. THIRTEEN SUSPECTS WERE DETAINED BY GVN AUTHORITIES IN BINH DINH (4) AND PHU YEN (9). TOTAL CASUALTIES WERE: ARVN SEVENTEEN WOUNDED AND THREE DEAD, AND NVA/VC EIGHT DEAD.

2. KONTUM: CONSUL KONTUM REPORTS THAT FIGHTING TO THE WEST OF KONTUM CITY CONTINUES, WITH NO PROGRESS MADE BY ARVN IN ITS EFFORTS TO WIN BACK THE TWO CONTESTED VILLAGES. CASUALTIES HAVE BEEN LIGHT TO MODERATE. ARVN UNITS ARE BEING ROTATED TO ALLOW FOR REST AND INCORPORATION OF NEW RECRUITS.

3. MR 2 COMMANDER, MAJ. N. TOAN, HAD BEEN EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN KONTUM ON JULY 17 FOR A STAY OF SEVERAL DAYS, DURING WHICH HE WAS EXPECTED TO EXERT CONSIDERABLE COMMAND PRESSURE ON ARVN COMMANDER TO GET THEIR UNITS TO ADVANCE AND WIN BACK THE AREA RECENTLY SEIZED BY THE NVA. HE DID NOT ARRIVE, HOWEVER, BUT ACCORDING TO 23RD DIVISION COMMANDER, BRIG.GEN. CAM, HE MAY COME LATER IN THE WEEK FOR A DAY OR TWO.

4. THERE IS A SERIOUS SHORTAGE OF POL IN KONTUM WHICH HAS NOW BEGUN TO AFFECT ARVN OPERATIONS.

5. QUANG DUC: PROV REP QUANG DUC REPORTS THAT, ACCORDING TO THE PROVINCE CHIEF, AN NVA SUPPLY ROAD WHICH PARALLELS THE PROVINCE BORDER ON THE CAMBODIAN SIDE IS IN POOR CONDITION. (THE ARVN REPORTEDLY HAS PHOTOS OF IT.) ROAD DETERIORATES AFTER LEAVING ROUTE 6B IN DARLAC AND CROSSING INTO CAMBODIA, AND REMAINS ROUGH UNTIL IT REENTERS SOUTH VIET-NAM AND HOOKS UP WITH ROUTE 309 AT ABOUT YU613557. TRANSPORT IN CAMBODIA IS MOSTLY BY BULLDOZER (PERHAPS THOSE CAPTURED BY THE KHMER ROUGE FROM LOGGERS LAST FEBRUARY),

WITH MOLOTOVA TRUCKS OPERATING ON THE FEW GROUND

SECTIONS. ONE UNCONFIRMED REPORT CLAIMS THAT SOME FIVE HUNDRED ETHNIC LAO FROM BAN DON DISTRICT, DARLAC, ARE LOCATED ABOUT TEN KILOMETERS WEST OF THE CAMBODIAN BORDER (AROUND YU710720). THEY MAY BE USED TO REPAIR THE CAMBODIAN SECTION OF THE ROAD.

6. DAN CHU PARGP: PROV RB PHU YEN REPORTS THAT GVN MINISTER OF HEALTH, DR. TRAN MINH TUNG, WHO IS ALSO SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE DAN CHU PARTY, WAS IN PHU YEN ON JULY 16 AND 17 TO  
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INAUGURATE THE PROVINCIAL CHAPTER OF THE DAN CHU PARTY. CEREMONY TOOK PLACE IN TUY HOA ON THE 17TH AND ATTRACTED A THRONG ESTIMATED AT 10-15 THOUSAND. (AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, FAILURE TO ESTABLISH A PARTY CHAPTER IN PHU YEN PROBABLY CONTRIBUTED TO REMOVAL OF FORMER PROVINCE CHIEF AT END OF MARCH.)

7. PRIME MINISTER ABSENT: PRIME MINISTER KHIEM DID NOT IN FACT TO TO BINH THUAN PROVINCE ON JULY 14 TO PASS OUT STOCK

CERTIFICATES AT THE VINH HAO MINERAL WATER PLANT AS HAD BEEN EXPECTED (NHA TRANG 699, PARA 6). HIS PLACE IN THE CEREMONY WAS TAKEN BY MINISTER OF STATE DR. PHAN QUANG DAN.

8. CROP LOSS: PROV REP KHANH HOA REPORTS THAT THE RECENT RAINS IN COASTAL MR 2 HAVE REDUCED BY 50 PERCENT THE CROP LOSSES WHICH HAD BEEN ANTICIPATED AS A RESULT OF THE DROUGHT WHICH HAD PREVAILED DURING MAY AND JUNE. NEVERTHELESS, VAN NINH DISTRICT LOST APPROXIMATELY 770 HECTARES, NINH HOA 1,100 HECTARES AND VINH XUANG 200. DIEN KHANH, HOWEVER, CAME THROUGH RELATIVELY UNSCATHED. SINCE THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 17 THOUSAND HECTARES UNDER CULTIVATION THE PROVINCE, THE LOSSES AMOUNT TO A BIT MORE THAN TEN PERCENT OF THE TOTAL AREA.

9. BINH THUAN: THE BINH THUAN PROVINCE CHIEF TOLD HIS STAFF ON JULY 16 THAT HE REGARDED THE PAST WEEK'S EFFORT TO SECURE THE RICH AND HEAVILY POPULATED "TRIANGLE AREA" BETWEEN PHAN THIET, MUONG MAN AND HOA AN (THIEN GIAO) VILLAGE AS SUCCESSFUL, BOTH IN DISRUPTING THE ENEMY AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, IN CONVINCING THE POPULATION THAT THE GVN WOULD NOT STAND FOR AN ENEMY PRESENCE IN THE AREA (NHA TRANG 699, PARA 2).

TEARE

UNQUOTE MARTIN

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## Message Attributes

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